

Greetings Rising Freshmen and Class of 2016

I trust you are well! Allow me to take this opportunity to personally welcome you individually to the start of an academic journey unlike any other you have experienced! In just a few short months we shall stand face to face and embark upon this academic journey together. Needless to say, I am excited about the opportunity to partner with you! This year promises to be one of the most exciting, challenging, and fulfilling experiences you will encounter in the International Baccalaureate Program at James S. Rickards High School.

Let's begin, shall we? You have *two* novels for your 2012/2013 summer reading. They are as follows:

- *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho
- **Scholar's Choice:** Your second book may be from the Incoming 9th Grader reading list.

These novels introduce key narrative elements and several thematic strands that we will explore together during the school year. I trust you will find them enjoyable! (**Note: You will need to have copies of these books to bring to class with you when school begins.**)

Hear me, scholar: If the aforementioned activities are to be fruitful, then each one of us, you and I, must put forth maximum effort in our analysis of each novel. The following expectations are communicated below with that goal in mind. Be sure to adhere to them. As you read each novel:

- Complete a closely adhered to *Major Works Data Worksheet* Packet for each book.
- Ensure you are familiar with the *Major Works Data Worksheet* Rubric.

Your summer reading journals will be the first substantial product you submit to me. They are indicative of your personal commitment to quality. With that being said, I challenge you to own this opportunity! Do not wait until the last minute to engage it. Produce honest, sincere, and thoughtful commentary that reflects the depth of character and intelligence you possess so richly.

Your *Major Works Data Worksheet* will be **due on Friday of the first week of school**. It will be weighted as an essay grade, which is quite heavy. If you have any questions about the books or summer reading assignment, please feel free to contact **Mr. Reginald Isom** at isomr@leonschools.net from the time of receipt of this letter through the end of May 2012. After that date, please contact **Mr. Patrick Wright** at wrightp@leonschools.net or 488-1783.

We look forward to seeing you in August for the start of our 2012/2013 partnership!

Let's make it a great one!!!

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**See reading list for *Scholar's Choice* on following page.
Attention Rising Freshmen and Class of 2016:**

Your second summer reading assignment must come from the list of approved books below.

Incoming 9th Grader

- *The Catcher in the Rye*, J. D. Salinger
- *Monster*, Walter Dean Myers
- *The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd
- *A Separate Peace*, John Knowles
- *She's So Money*, Cherry Cheva
- *Slam*, Walter Dean Myers
- *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*, David Lubar
- *Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Stargirl*, Jerry Spinelli
- *Twisted*, Laurie Halse Anderson
- *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*, Michael Dorris
- *Ellen Foster*, Kaye Gibbons
- *The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

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